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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,411	03/19/2004	David Garrett	12	7365
7590 Docket Administrator (Room 3J-219) Lucent Technologies Inc. 101 Crawfords Corner Road Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030			EXAMINER PERILLA, JASON M	
			ART UNIT 2611	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/804,411	GARRETT, DAVID	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason M. Perilla	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-3 are pending in the instant application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted April 30, 2004 and August 5, 2005 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0181419; "Davis") in view of Garrett (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0042565), and in further view of Chan et al ("A Simple Taboo-Based Soft Decision Decoding Algorithm for Expander Codes"; IEEE Communications Letters, Vol. 2, No. 7, pgs. 183-185, July 1998; "Chan").

Regarding claim 1, Davis discloses a method for decoding a received vector symbol which corresponds to a binary string having a plurality of bit positions (¶ 0003-0004), comprising: (a) performing a sphere search so as to obtain an initial set of candidate vectors (¶ 0024, 0028, 0032, 0033). Davis discloses determining an initial set of candidate vectors. Because comparing each received symbol against an array of every possible symbol transmitted is too exhaustive, the set of possible candidate

Art Unit: 2611

received symbols is reduced using Davis' sphere search. In Davis' example sphere search, (i.e. fig. 2) a most likely candidate is determined (¶ 0033). Regardless of the number of candidate vectors determined in the sphere search, one of the candidate vectors is considered a most likely candidate as understood by one having ordinary skill in the art because it has the lowest cost function. Davis discloses that the most likely candidates are the only ones processed by a maximum likelihood a posteriori probability algorithm (MLAPP) or another selected technique (¶ 0024) but does not disclose specifically (1) computing a log-likelihood ratio for each of said bit positions, wherein each said ratio is based on values of a cost function computed for at least some candidate vectors belonging to the initial set, and (2) on values of the cost function for at least some further candidate vectors constructed by flipping one or more bits of the most likely candidate vector. However, Garrett teaches, in a strictly analogous MLAPP detector, determining log-likelihood ratio based on cost functions of candidate vectors (¶ 0013). That is, Garrett teaches that the MLAPP algorithm actually determines log-likelihood ratios based on values of a cost function computed for at lease some candidate vectors. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time which the invention was made that the MLAPP algorithm of Davis could be utilized to determines log-likelihood ratios based on values of a cost function computed for at lease some candidate vectors because, as taught by Garrett, the use of log-likelihood ratios in the MLAPP algorithm is well known and accepted in the art.

Further regarding claim 1, Davis in view of Garrett does not disclose that log-likelihood ratios are determined for some cost functions constructed by flipping one or

more bits of the most likely candidate vector. However, Chan teaches, in an analogous decoding technique, a method of flipping bits in a candidate vector to assist in decoding (abstract). Chan teaches flipping the "least reliable nontaboo variable" (i.e. bit) to assist in decoding (pg. 184, "Soft Decision Decoding Algorithm"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time which the invention was made to flip the least reliable bit as taught by Chan in the method of Davis in view of Garrett because it would lead to better decoding of the received signal.

Regarding claim 2, Davis in view of Garrett, and in further view of Chan disclose the limitations of claim 1 as applied above. Davis in view of Garrett, and in further view of Chan do not explicitly disclose that the initial set of candidate vectors at least one vector that has been excluded by the sphere search as lying outside a search radius. However, as plainly understood by one having ordinary skill in the art, the choice of the "sphere" size is directly attributed to the amount of candidates that one wishes to evaluate. While the specification provides that "in at least some cases, it will be advantageous to include in S' (the candidate vectors) some or all of the leaf nodes that have been tested but have failed the radius test (i.e. are outside the "sphere"), in order to provide good soft information", one skilled in the art further understands that the choice of the size of the sphere is directly related to how "good" the soft information is. That is, a balance between an amount of soft candidate vector information to be evaluated and time and resource constraints must be maintained. Therefore, including at least one candidate vector which lies outside the "sphere" is simply analogous to making the "sphere" appropriately larger depending upon the aforementioned "balance".

The specification does not provide any indication of non-obviousness with respect to choosing a candidate that is “outside” the sphere. Specifically, it provides no actual advantage as compared to simply making the “sphere” larger. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time which the invention was made that the “sphere” could be made larger or the entry of candidates outside the sphere could, likewise, be admitted for evaluation depending upon the number of candidates that one wishes to evaluate.

Regarding claim 3, Davis in view of Garrett, and in further view of Chan disclose the limitations of claim 1 as applied above. Further, Chan discloses that at least some further candidate vectors are constructed by flipping precisely one bit of the most likely candidate vector as applied in claim 1 above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following prior art of record not relied upon above is cited to further show the state of the art with respect to decoders.

U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0175122 to Nefedov et al.

U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0283702 to Wu et al.

U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0019842 to Argon et al.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Perilla whose telephone number is (571) 272-3055. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5 EST.

Art Unit: 2611

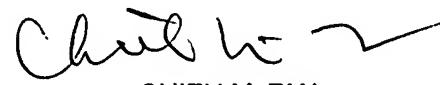
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh M. Fan can be reached on (571) 272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jason M. Perilla
June 26, 2007

jmp



CHIEH M. FAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER